



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8  
999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Ref: EPR-ER

## FINAL POLLUTION REPORT

R. J. Refinery  
LaBarge, Wyoming

## I. HEADING

Date: 10/25/99  
Site Name: R. J. Refinery  
From: Joyce Ackerman, OSC  
To: Patty Smith, EPA Headquarters  
POLREP No.: POLREP #2 and FINAL

## II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: 4T  
Response Authority: CERCLA  
Action Memorandum: October 12, 1998  
Start Date: October 26, 1998  
Completion Date: October 22, 1999

## III. SITE INFORMATION

## A. Incident Category

Time-Critical, Fund-Lead, Removal Action

## B. Site Description

## 1. Site Location

The Site is located in the town of LaBarge, at or near 723 Calpet Road, Lincoln County, Wyoming. The town has approximately 400 residents. The land use adjacent to the site is primarily residential.

## 2. Site Characteristics

The Site is an abandoned petroleum refinery. The refinery stored and processed a variety of petroleum products, and facility operations included blending gasoline with tetraethyl lead. An abandoned retail gas station is located at the Site. Some of the aboveground tanks contain unknown quantities of tank bottoms. At least 2 drums with unknown contents were buried at the Site.



The Site property owner listed in County records is deceased and no person is maintaining the facility. The Site is not fenced. There are several residential properties directly across the street from the Site and a residential trailer court on property adjacent to the Site.

### 3. Description of Threat

There were approximately 75 to 100 bottles of chemicals located in a chemical laboratory on-site. Labels on the bottles indicated a variety of chemicals including but not limited to sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, hydrogen peroxide, toluene, acetone, potassium chromate, hexane, and hydrochloric acid. This abandoned chemical laboratory posed a fire and explosion threat to nearby residential properties, as well as a direct contact threat to any vandals who might enter the quonset hut.

## IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

### A. Situation

#### 1. Action description

On October 26, 1998, EPA mobilized its Emergency and Rapid Response Services Contractor (ERRS) to the Site in order to initiate the removal of the laboratory chemicals from a quonset hut on-site. ERRS categorized them according to hazard; then the chemicals were overpacked in drums per disposal facility specifications, and they were transported to a disposal facility.

EPA then initiated an investigation at the Site to determine whether there was any soil or groundwater contamination or any other condition which posed a threat to human health or the environment. One groundwater sample showed elevated levels of lead, mercury, cadmium and chromium, but more extensive sampling was required in order to complete the removal evaluation.

#### 2. Project Schedule

Removal activities were started on 10/26/98, and the initial removal of the chemicals was completed in December 1998. EPA installed groundwater monitoring wells to complete the Removal evaluation. No CERCLA hazardous substances were identified in groundwater. Several BTEX compounds were present in groundwater, but

not at levels sufficient to trigger OPA. The OSC is concurrently conducting an SPCC inspection at the parcel of the property that has an owner. The owner is renting out 2 million gallon tanks to an oil company. The owner of this parcel is also the mortgage holder on the adjacent property which has the abandoned refinery. This is a difficult situation for the State because there is no PRP to bring enforcement action against. With no owner, the tanks will eventually rust out and the sludges in the bottoms of the tanks will be released to the environment. There are also low levels of BTEX contamination in the groundwater. The OSC and State representatives have had discussions with the mortgage holder to encourage a cleanup - but to avail. It is likely that the State will again ask EPA for assistance in the future as the refinery continues to deteriorate.

The CERCLA investigation and Removal Action are now concluded. The OSC is still involved with the Site through OPA-SPCC.

#### V. COST INFORMATION

The initial budget which was established for this Removal Action was \$27,000. Total cost details are not available at this time, but they appear to be less than budgeted.